

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 29 has been amended and new claim 35 has been added. Accordingly, claims 17-35 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 29, 30, 32, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,916,352 to Sutton et al. ("Sutton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,145,500 to Nolen, Jr. ("Nolen"). Claims 31 and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17-28 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17-28, 31, and 33.

Independent claim 29 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "at least one electrical connector on at least one end of each of the plurality of wire mesh elements." Support for this amendment can be found at least in paragraph no. 29 of the specification, FIGS. 3, 5, and 6 of the drawings, and original claim 33. Sutton fails to teach or suggest the claimed electrical connectors. Nolen fails to remedy the deficiency in Sutton, nor is Nolen cited for such a purpose. Since Sutton and Nolen, whether taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest each of the limitations in independent claim 29, then independent claim 29 and its dependent claims 30-34 are allowable. In addition, each of the dependent claims recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore each is also separately patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29, 30, 32, and 34.

New independent claim 35 is original claim 31 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, independent claim 35 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.


The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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